Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims that follows includes the present status of all claims including current amendments and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1(currently amended). A method for suppressing the expression of a selected gene in a cell the method comprising a step of introducing into the cell a molecule comprising (1) a nucleic acid binding portion which binds to a site at or associated with the selected gene which site is present in a geonome and (2) an expression repressor portion, wherein the nucleic acid binding portion comprises an oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide mimic or analogue, and wherein the repressor portion comprises a polypeptide or peptidomimetic.

2(currently amended). A method for modulating the expression of a selected gene in a cell the method comprising a step of introducing into the cell a molecule comprising (1) a nucleic acid binding portion which binds to a site at or associated with the selected gene which site is present in a genome and (2) a modifying portion, wherein the nucleic acid binding portion comprises an oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide mimic or analogue, and wherein the modifying portion comprises a polypeptide or peptidomimetic which is capable of modulating covalent modification of nucleic acid or chromatin and is not an

endonuclease.

3(currently amended). ~~The~~ A method ~~of~~ according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the repressor or modifying portion is a chromatin inactivation portion.

4(currently amended). ~~The~~ A method ~~of~~ according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the repressor or modifying portion is all or a portion of a component of a DNA methylase complex or all or a portion of a polypeptide which binds to or facilitates the recruitment of a DNA methylase complex.

5(currently amended). ~~The~~ A method ~~of~~ according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the repressor or modifying portion is all or a portion of a component of a histone acetyltransferase or all or a portion of a polypeptide which binds to or facilitates the recruitment of a histone acetyltransferase complex.

6(currently amended). ~~The~~ A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the polypeptide or peptidomimetic part of the molecule has a molecular mass of less than 11 kDa.

7(currently amended). A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the nucleic acid binding portion is a DNA binding portion.

8(currently amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the nucleic acid binding portion is an RNA binding portion and the site present in a genome is a nascent RNA being transcribed from DNA.

9(currently amended). ~~The~~ A method ~~of any of the preceding claims~~ according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide analog or mimetic is a triplex forming oligonucleotide (TFO).

10(currently amended). ~~The~~ A method ~~of any of the preceding claims~~ according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the oligonucleotide analog or mimetic is a peptide nucleic acid (PNA).

11(currently amended). A method according to claim 3 ~~or claims dependent thereon~~ wherein the chromatin inactivation portion facilitates histone deacetylation.

12(currently amended). A method according to claim 3 ~~or claims dependent thereon~~ or 11 wherein the chromatin inactivation portion is all or a portion of a component of a histone deacetylation (HDAC) complex or all or a portion of a polypeptide which binds to or facilitates the recruitment of a HDAC complex.

13(currently amended). A method according to claim 12 wherein the component of the HDAC complex or the polypeptide which binds to or facilitates the recruitment of a HDAC complex is ~~any one~~ selected from the group consisting of PLZF, N-CoR, SMRT, Sin3, SAP18, SAP30, HDAC, NuRD, MAD1, MAD2, MAD3, MAD4, Rb or E7.

14(original). A method according to claim 13 wherein the chromatin inactivation portion is all or a N-CoR-or SMRT-binding part of PLZF.

15(original). A method according to claim 13 wherein the chromatin inactivation portion is all or an enzymatically active part of a HDAC.

16(original). A method according to claim 13 wherein the chromatin inactivation portion is all or a histone deacetylase complex-binding part of E7.

17(currently amended). A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the molecule further comprises a portion which facilitates cellular entry and/or nuclear localization.

18(currently amended). A method according to claim ~~18~~ 17 wherein the portion which facilitates cellular entry and/or nuclear localization is a small peptide of 7-16 amino acids~~, for example Modified Antennapedia homeodomain (RQIKIWFQNRRMKWKK) or basic HIV TAT internalization peptide (C(Acm)GRKKRRQRRRPQC), where C(Acm) is a Cys-acetamidomethyl~~.

19(currently amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the nucleic acid binding portion and the repressor or modifying portion are fused.

20(currently amended). A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the cell is an eukaryotic cell.

21(currently amended). A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of an animal cell ~~and~~ that is contained

within an animal ~~or is~~ and a plant cell ~~and~~ that is contained within a plant.

22(currently amended). A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the expression of a selected gene in a human is suppressed.

23(currently amended). A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the expression of a plurality of selected genes is suppressed.

24(currently amended). ~~Use of a molecule as defined in relation to any of the preceding claims~~ A method according to claim 1 or 2 including the step of using said molecule in the manufacture of an agent for modulating the expression of ~~the~~ a selected gene in a cell.

25(currently amended). ~~The use of claim 24~~ A method as in claim 24 wherein the agent is for suppressing the expression of the selected gene.

26(currently amended). ~~Use~~ A method according to claim 24 ~~or 25~~ wherein the agent is a medicament for modulating or suppressing the expression of a selected gene in an animal or patient in need of such modulation or supression.

27-30(canceled).

31(currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a molecule as defined in ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1 or 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32(currently amended). ~~The~~ A composition ~~of~~ according to

claim 31 comprising means for promoting cellular uptake of the molecule~~, for example, liposomes or a viral carrier~~.

33(currently amended). A host cell comprising a molecule as defined in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, an animal cell and a plant cell.

34-38(canceled).

39(currently amended). A method for designing a molecule for suppressing expression of a selected gene in a cell, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) identifying a site at or associated with the selected gene;

(2) identifying or designing a nucleic acid binding portion which binds to, or is predicted to bind to, the site (or a polynucleotide having or comprising the nucleotide sequence of the site); and

(3) preparing a molecule comprising the nucleic acid binding portion and an expression repressor portion,

wherein the nucleic acid binding portion comprises an oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide mimic or analogue and wherein the repressor portion comprises a polypeptide or peptidomimetic.

40(currently amended). A method for designing a molecule for modulating expression of a selected gene in a cell, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) identifying a site at or associated with the selected gene;

(2) identifying or designing a nucleic acid binding portion

which binds to, or is predicted to bind to, the site (or a polynucleotide having or comprising the nucleotide sequence of the site); and

(3) preparing a molecule comprising the nucleic acid binding portion and a modifying portion,

wherein the nucleic acid binding portion comprises an oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide mimic or analogue and wherein the modifying portion comprises a polypeptide or peptidomimetic which is capable of modulating covalent modification of nucleic acid or chromatin.

41(currently amended). The method of claim 39 or 40 further comprising the steps of:

(4) performing a quality control assessment on the molecule preparation in order to determine that the nucleic acid binding portion and repressor or modifying portion are attached to each other;

(5) testing the affinity and/or specificity of binding of the nucleic acid binding portion to the site and/or a polynucleotide having or comprising the nucleotide sequence of the site;

(6) testing the affinity and/or specificity of binding of the molecule to the site and/or a polynucleotide having or comprising the nucleotide sequence of the site; and/or

(7) testing the efficacy of the molecule or polynucleotide in modulating or suppressing the expression of the gene and/or of a reporter gene comprising the nucleotide sequence of the site.

42-43(canceled).